GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3818
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
MARKET FOR WHEAT EXPORT
SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Indian wheat has been stagnant at three lakh tonnes per month as the Government have failed to find new market for exports;

(b) the wheat export target fixed by the Government for the current year;

(c) the names of countries with which our wheat exporters are facing competition; and

(d) the further concessions proposed to be given by the Government to the exporters for promotion of export of wheat from the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SH KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a): No, Sir. During the financial year 2002-2003 the quantities of wheat lifted for export by the Public Sector Undertakings, State Agencies and private exporters have been more than four lakh tonnes per month except in April 2002 when it was 3.71 lakh tonnes.

(b): During the year 2002-03, the Government has removed the quantitative restrictions on the export of wheat subject to the condition that the stocks in the Central Pool should not be lower than the minimum buffer stock of 143 lakh MTs of wheat at any point of time.

(c): In view of the surplus stock of wheat in the Central Pool the Government is makingavailable wheat, through Food Corporation of India to Public Sector Undertakings, State Agenciesand private exporters for export. India is not in competition with any country regarding export of wheat.

(d): The promotional measures taken by the Government are detailed below:-

(i) Procedural restrictions like registration with APEDA in case of export of wheat and wheat products have been removed;

(ii) an empowered Standing Committee on Exports has been set up to take expeditious decisions.

(iii) In order to offer a stable price regime, the Government has decided to fix the offer price of export of wheat from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks and to announce the prices 45 days in advance before the commencement of the concerned quarter.

(iv) WTO compatible post-delivery and related expenses are being allowed to the exporters.